



Release Notes for version 3.2

agileDSS Inc.
2012-09-10

As agileWORKFLOW grows ever more mature and reliable, our transition from version 3.1 to 3.2 marked a time of great improvement in our software development process. Part of this includes the production of this document highlighting the differences between these two versions, to inform your decision of whether or not to upgrade at this time.

Agent Sleep Times

After receiving feedback from our users, we have established some well calibrated defaults for the sleep times of our agents. Whereas originally, we had our three primary services, that is, event, execution and dispatcher, set to sleep for 10 seconds each, we now have them sleeping for 15, 20 and 30 seconds respectively. With these changes, our users have already reported marked improvement in the performance of our product.



Managed Services	
	Enable
Service Event	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Service Execution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Service Dispatcher	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Import and Export

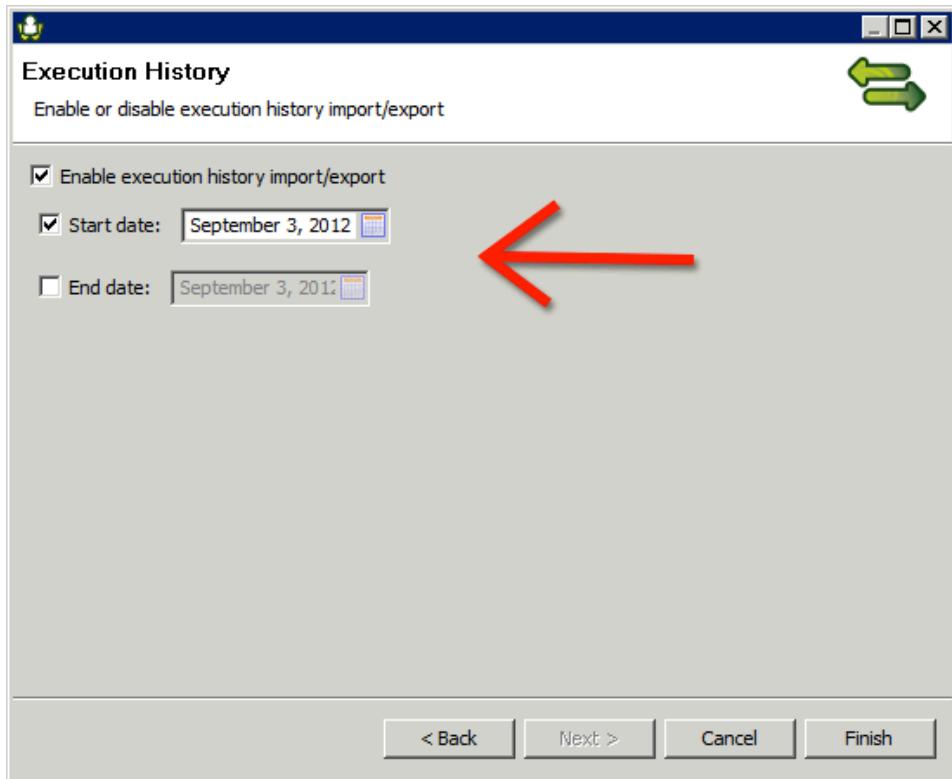
One of the greatest weaknesses of 3.1 was its performance when importing and exporting instances. In fact, we recommended to our customers to drop the instance information when they had large amounts of instances, as production workflows rarely have the luxury of going offline for extended periods of time.

Knowing this, we placed great focus in version 3.2 on the import/export module of agileWORKFLOW.

The first thing we did was refine the queries we were making to our repository. Each query was profiled for performance, and a rewrite was conducted on those queries that took the longest. One instance-specific query in particular which had nested queries took more time than all the other queries made during the import process combined. By flattening out the query, we were able to reduce the time spent during the import process by over ten fold!

We also looked to rework the export side of things. We have users that have been running agileWORKFLOW for months, with tasks being executed on a near continuous basis. While tasks are being executed, instances, histories and logs are being added to the repository, sometimes thousands per day. Looking out into the long term, it would be unreasonable to always ask that all instances be included every export, for performance and disk space reasons.

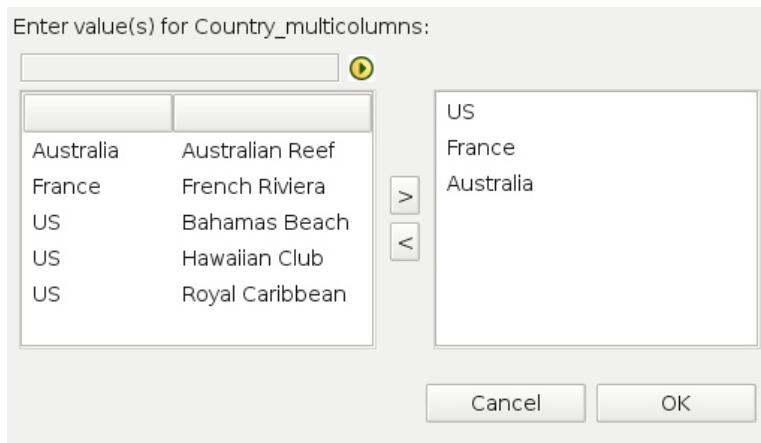
As a solution, we have implemented the date range feature. Now, when doing an export to an archive file, one can optionally specify a start time and an end time. This enables the use case of a user that would like to do regular backups of their instances on a weekly basis, without needed to do a full export of all their instances every time. Instances can later be reimported by importing each backup archive one at a time so long as the workflow doesn't change.



New Business Objects Prompts

This release of agileWORKFLOW boasts support for two new prompts: range prompts for BO 4.0, and multi-column prompts for both BO 3.1 and 4.0.

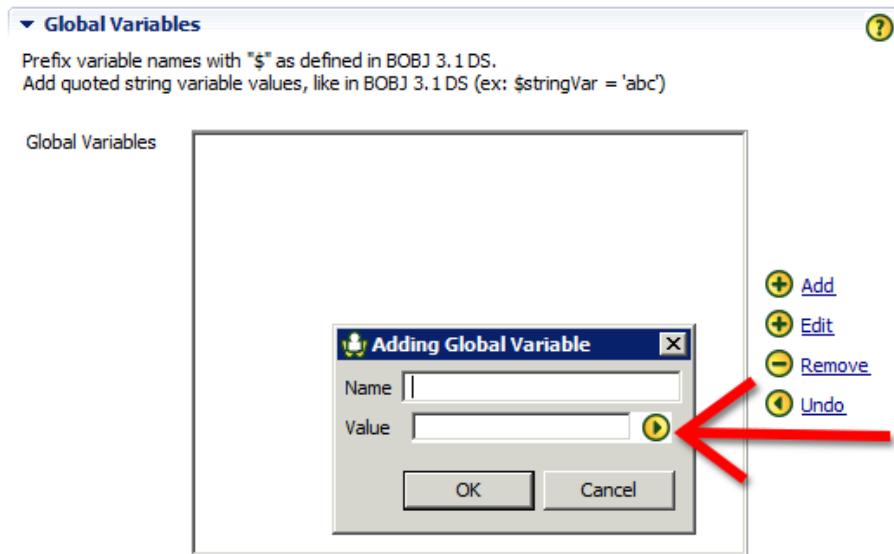
The range prompt, once configured, allows a range to be specified by entering both a minimum and maximum value.



The multi-column prompt is essentially a variation of the list of value (LOV) prompt with the ability to display more than one column. The prompt shows the list of values, and has the default selected values from BO already selected. The list of values may even be extended with new values so long as the list is not read-only.

agileWORKFLOW Variable Expansion for DI/DS Global Variables

New to this release is the ability to leverage agileWORKFLOW variables within Business Object's DI/DS global variables. The value field, when defining a global variable in agileWORKFLOW, now has its own expansion arrow button, the tell-tale sign that agileWORKFLOW variables can be used there.



File Event Triggers on File Change

It used to be that a file event would be triggered when a file was present in the absence of any history, or if that file had just been created. Similarly, the event would un-trigger when the file was removed.

However, there was a need for support of the scenario where a file was added, and before agileWORKFLOW had a chance to complete a beat, the file would be removed and re-added. This would happen so fast that, as far as our product was concerned, the file was never removed.

Now, change time is taken into account, such that if a file's change time is modified, agileWORKFLOW treats it identically to deleting and recreating the file, resulting in the file event being retriggered.

More Informative Console Output

In improving our version release process, we noticed that two of our products, the external tool and the migration tool, were not previously configured to output useful diagnostic information to the console. This has been permanently remedied, such that all versions of agileWORKFLOW from here on out will include this information, that will allow us to provide better support to our customers.

Installer

In our effort to engineer a more intuitive product, agileWORKFLOW, specifically the UI and agent components, is now available in the form of a Windows setup wizard.

Bug Fixes

This release also includes a number of useful bug fixes:

- A variable, when found at the 2000th character position, will no longer fail to expand.
- A variable reference found in a group with a loop will now be preserved during export.
- The time at which a time event is triggered is now correctly calculated relative to the start time rather than relative to the last instance.
- The forced objects queue is cleaned when starting an agent, before making the recover of the objects that are not in a final status.